

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

NEVEST COLEMAN,	)	
	)	Case No.
<i>Plaintiff,</i>	)	
	)	
<i>v.</i>	)	
	)	
CITY OF CHICAGO, KENNETH	)	
BOUDREAU, JOHN HALLORAN,	)	
MICHAEL CLANCY, JAMES O'BRIEN,	)	
WILLIAM FOLEY, ALBERT GRAF,	)	
WILLIAM MOSER, STANLEY TURNER,	)	<b>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</b>
GERALD CARROLL, THOMAS KELLY,	)	
SERGEANT THOMAS BENOIT, as-yet	)	
UNKNOWN OFFICERS OF THE	)	
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT,	)	
ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY	)	
HAROLD GARFINKEL, and COOK	)	
COUNTY,	)	

*Defendants.*

**COMPLAINT**

NOW COMES Plaintiff, NEVEST COLEMAN, by his attorneys LOEVY & LOEVY, and complaining of Defendants CITY OF CHICAGO, KENNETH BOUDREAU, JOHN HALLORAN, MICHAEL CLANCY, JAMES O'BRIEN, WILLIAM FOLEY, ALBERT GRAF, WILLIAM MOSER, STANLEY TURNER, GERALD CARROLL, THOMAS KELLY, SERGEANT THOMAS BENOIT, as-yet UNKNOWN OFFICERS OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT (collectively "Defendant Officers"), ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY HAROLD GARFINKEL, and COOK COUNTY, states as follows:

## INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff Nevest Coleman spent nearly half his life in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit.

2. In 2017, DNA evidence finally exonerated Mr. Coleman. DNA from semen found on the victim's clothes and underwear, and from underneath her fingernails, both completely exculpated Mr. Coleman and implicated the real perpetrator: a serial rapist.

3. Tragically, because the Defendant Detectives framed an innocent man for the crime, the real perpetrator remained free to rape at least three other women.

4. Prior to his arrest at age 25, Mr. Coleman had no criminal history and had been employed full-time as a Comiskey Park groundskeeper for the two years leading up to his arrest.

5. The sum total of the evidence against him was his false confession, which was coerced by the Defendant Detectives. These same Defendants are notorious for obtaining false confessions from dozens of other men through violence, threats, and false promises of leniency.

6. Although no physical evidence or eyewitnesses tied Mr. Coleman to the crime, his coerced false confession was enough to send him to prison for life.

7. Finally, in 2017, all charges against Mr. Coleman were dismissed based on the new DNA evidence and he regained his freedom.

8. Mr. Coleman now seeks justice for the harm that the Defendants have caused and redress for the loss of liberty and the terrible hardship that he has endured and continues to suffer as a result of Defendants' misconduct.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and Illinois law to redress the Defendants' tortious conduct and their deprivation of Plaintiff's rights secured by the U.S. Constitution.

10. This Court has jurisdiction of Plaintiff's federal claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and supplemental jurisdiction of his state-law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337.

11. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). Plaintiff resides in this judicial district. In addition, Plaintiff's criminal case was investigated, tried, and appealed in this judicial district, such that a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred within this judicial district.

## **PARTIES**

12. Plaintiff Nevest Coleman is a 48-year old resident of Chicago, Illinois. At the time of his arrest, he was 25 years old and lived with his family in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago.

13. At all relevant times, Defendants Kenneth Boudreau, John Halloran, Michael Clancy, James O'Brien, William Foley, Albert Graf, Stanley Turner, Gerald Carroll, Thomas Kelly, and as-yet unknown Defendant Officers were detectives with the Chicago Police Department and the City of Chicago. These officers participated in the Bridgeman rape and murder investigation, which resulted in Mr. Coleman's wrongful conviction.

14. Each of the individually-named Defendant officers acted under color of law and within the scope of his or her employment at all times relevant to this lawsuit.

15. At all relevant times, Defendant Thomas Benoit was a sergeant with the Chicago Police Department, employed by Defendant City of Chicago. At all times relevant to this lawsuit, Defendant Benoit was acting under color of law and within the scope of his employment.

16. The City of Chicago is an Illinois municipal corporation that under the laws of the State of Illinois, and is or was the employer of the above-named Defendant Officers.

17. At all relevant times, Defendant Harold Garfinkel was an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois. He was employed as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and was employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

18. Defendant Cook County is a governmental entity within the State of Illinois, which consists in part of its Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and was at all relevant times the employer of Defendant Garfinkel. Defendant Cook County is a necessary party to this lawsuit.

## **FACTS**

19. In 1994 Nevest Coleman was a 25-year old family man with a bright future. He had no criminal record. At the time of his arrest, he was employed as a groundskeeper at Comiskey Park, a position he had held for two years.

20. Mr. Coleman (like every member of his family) graduated high school, and had been employed continuously thereafter. He attended church regularly, where he often volunteered.

21. When he was arrested, Mr. Coleman had two small children, aged two years and three months, and a big, tight-knit family and lots of friends. He was loved and respected by members of his community.

### **The Rape and Murder of Antwinica Bridgeman**

22. During the evening of April 11, 1994, the night before her 20th birthday, Antwinica Bridgeman went missing. She was not seen again until her body was found in the abandoned basement of the apartment building occupied by the Coleman family.

23. On April 28, 1994, Nevest Coleman's mother noticed a smell coming from the abandoned basement of their apartment building, and asked Mr. Coleman to investigate.

24. Mr. Coleman's friend Michael Barber was present, too, and he and Mr. Coleman both went down to investigate. Barber looked through the basement window and saw the body of a dead woman. They immediately notified Mr. Coleman's mother, who called 9-1-1. Police arrived at the scene and recovered Bridgeman's dead body from the basement.

25. Defendants Halloran, Boudreau, Foley, and Clancy were tasked to respond to the scene. They entered the basement and obtained first-hand knowledge of the crime scene.

26. The crime was horrific. Bridgeman had been raped and impaled with a pipe, and had ultimately suffocated to death on a brick that had been shoved in her mouth. Her body was then discovered in the basement two and a half weeks later.

27. The abandoned basement was accessible only by an exterior door. The basement had been broken into on several occasions, and drug users and homeless people squatted in the space. Inside, police found used condoms, PCP cigarettes, and empty beer cans and juice bottles.

### **The Interrogation and Creation of False Cases against Nevest Coleman and Derrell Fulton**

28. The same evening that the body was discovered, Coleman and Barber voluntarily went with police to the station for an interview. According to court testimony and police records, Mr. Coleman was interviewed by Defendants Halloran, Boudreau, Foley, Clancy, and Kelly.

29. Mr. Coleman truthfully recounted what he knew about the investigation: his mother had asked if he and Barber could determine the source of the smell, Barber looked through the window and saw the body, and the pair told Mr. Coleman's mother who called the police. Mr. Coleman repeatedly denied involvement in, and knowledge of, Bridgeman's murder, and he was released.

30. Eager to solve such a heinous crime, the Defendant Officers worked with the limited information available to them to develop suspects. Bridgeman's boyfriend reported that a man, Eddie Taylor, had at one point tried to abduct Bridgeman, and that Taylor and another man, Derrell Fulton, had been harassing Bridgeman recently. Fulton's prior sexual assault conviction made him even more of a suspect.

31. The Defendant Officers also focused on Coleman and Barber. Barber, who discovered the body, was incarcerated at the time Bridgeman disappeared and thus was cleared. Given that Bridgeman's body was discovered in the basement of the Coleman family's apartment building, Mr. Coleman became a person of interest in the investigation.

32. Wanting to interrogate Mr. Coleman when he was sleep deprived, some of the Defendant Officers returned to Coleman's home at around 12:30 a.m. that same night and woke him. Having nothing to hide, Mr. Coleman returned to the station to answer questions.

33. Several of the Defendant Officers placed Mr. Coleman in a small, windowless interrogation room. Approximately eight detectives entered that small room, including but not limited to Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, Clancy, O'Brien, Foley, Graf, Turner, and Carroll entered the room. None of the Defendant Officers read Mr. Coleman his *Miranda* rights. With the Defendants looming over him in intimidating fashion, Mr. Coleman again truthfully answered their questions and denied involvement.

34. When Defendants' interrogation did not elicit a confession, they turned to more coercive tactics. During the 12 hours Mr. Coleman was in custody, Defendants employed a range of physically and mentally coercive tactics.

35. One of the Defendant Officers called Mr. Coleman a "lying-assed nigger."

36. When Mr. Coleman protested that he had told the Defendant Officer everything he knew and was telling the truth, that detective punched him in the face. Mr. Coleman asked why the Defendant Officer had hit him, and the Defendant Officer punched him in the face again. Mr. Coleman fell to the floor and curled up in the fetal position, covering his face with his hands.

37. Mr. Coleman repeatedly denied knowing anything about the crimes to no avail.

38. A Defendant Officer told Mr. Coleman that he would be struck until he confessed being at the crime scene.

39. A Defendant Officer told him that he was not the person they were after, and falsely told him that if he acted as a witness and cooperated to implicate Fulton and Taylor, they would let him go home.

40. The Defendant Officers then fed Mr. Coleman false information about the rape and murder.

41. Each Defendant Officer knew about the coercive tactics used by the other Defendant Officers, including the physical abuse, and that Mr. Coleman was being coerced into giving a false confession.

42. The Defendants actively consulted with their supervisor, Defendant Benoit, including discussing the coercive tactics they used to obtain Mr. Coleman's false confession.

43. Before there was any probable cause to believe Mr. Coleman was involved in the crime, Defendant Garfinkel, an Assistant State's Attorney, came into the interrogation room and falsely told Mr. Coleman he was there to help him.

44. Mr. Coleman told Defendant Garfinkel that he had been beaten, but Defendant Garfinkel told him that they would deal with that abuse at a different time.

45. Defendant Officers and Defendant Garfinkel fed Coleman more information about the crimes. They described a scenario for Coleman in which he acted as the lookout while Fulton and Taylor participated in Bridgeman's rape and murder.

46. Believing that he would be allowed to go home if he played his part and implicated Fulton and Taylor, Mr. Coleman regurgitated the Defendants' false story to Defendant Garfinkel.

47. Defendant Garfinkel led Mr. Coleman through this court-reported "confession."

48. By the time he finished providing his false confession at noon, Mr. Coleman had been interrogated for almost 12 hours and had almost no sleep in over 24 hours.

49. The Defendant Officers and Defendant Garfinkel knew that Mr. Coleman's "confession" was false and that the only reason he regurgitated it was because of the physical and mental coercion to which they subjected him, and the false promises of leniency.

50. Nevertheless, the Defendants falsely charged him with murder.

51. Absent Defendant Garfinkel's cooperation, the Defendants Officers could not have alone coerced Mr. Coleman's confession.

52. Similarly, absent the Defendant Officers' cooperation, Defendant Garfinkel could not have coerced Mr. Coleman's confession.

53. From the very day of his false confession, Mr. Coleman has maintained that the confession was the product of physical and mental abuse, coercion, and false promises of leniency. Hours after providing the false confession, Mr. Coleman met with Juliette Ferguson, an attorney whom he had never previously met. In that conversation, Mr. Coleman told Attorney Ferguson that his “confession” was false and that he had been beaten at the police station.

54. Fulton experienced a similar encounter with these same Defendants.

55. After Fulton was picked up, he was taken to an interrogation room and handcuffed. Defendant Officers, including, but not limited to Foley, Halloran, Clancy, Boudreau, O’Brien, and Carroll interrogated him over a day and a half.

56. One of the Defendants hit Fulton in the face and told him that he would take him somewhere and “put a bullet in [his] brain” if he did not confess.

57. The Defendant Officers told Fulton he would be able to go home if he merely played along and said what they told him to say.

58. With no probable cause to believe that Fulton was involved in the crime, Defendant Garfinkel then came into the room told Fulton that unless he confessed, he would be charged with murder.

59. Defendant Garfinkel prepared a handwritten statement, dictating to Fulton his involvement in Bridgeman’s rape and murder.

60. Having had almost no sleep for 36 hours and believing he would be released if he complied, Fulton succumbed to the Defendants’ coercion and provided a false confession.

**Defendant Officers and Defendant ASA  
Continued Their Coordinated Efforts and Fabricated Additional Evidence**

61. The Defendant Officers never disclosed their misconduct. In written reports, Defendant Officers falsely represented the circumstances under which Coleman’s and Fulton’s

“confessions” were obtained, claiming that they had originated with Coleman and Fulton themselves, when in reality they had come from Defendants.

62. Well before the trial, Defendant Officers and Defendant Garfinkel fabricated reports purporting to memorialize Coleman’s and Fulton’s false statements. These reports concealed the coercion used to obtain Coleman’s and Fulton’s false statements.

### **The Conviction and Sentencing**

63. Based on the false confessions, juries found Coleman and Fulton guilty of first-degree murder and aggravated criminal sexual assault.

64. In the death-penalty phase of sentencing, 30 people came forward, even after Coleman had been wrongfully convicted of this heinous crime, to speak to his good character, reliability, kindness, work ethic, good values and resilience in the face of difficulty, and his loving and caring nature. The witnesses comprised Mr. Coleman’s family, coworkers, members of his church, and friends.

65. The trial judge acknowledged that there was no evidence against Coleman other than his “confession,” and citing Mr. Coleman’s lack of criminal record and the lack of any other evidence, he sentenced Mr. Coleman to natural life for the murder conviction and a consecutive 30-year sentence for the sexual assault.

66. In 1999 the Illinois Appellate Court affirmed Coleman’s sentence, and the Illinois Supreme Court denied his petition for leave to appeal.

### **The Forensic Evidence Establishes Coleman’s Innocence**

67. While Mr. Coleman remained in prison, new evidence—both DNA evidence and evidence about police misconduct—came to light to establish that he and Fulton were innocent.

68. In 2016, Mr. Coleman moved under 725 ILCS 5/116-3 for additional forensic testing on DNA found at the crime scene. The Conviction Integrity Unit at the Cook County State's Attorney Office voluntarily reopened the investigation into Bridgeman's murder, and in doing so agreed to conduct new DNA testing.

69. That DNA testing, including testing on semen found on the victim, excluded Coleman, Fulton, Taylor, and Bridgeman's boyfriend as a source of the DNA, and implicated a known serial rapist.

70. Semen was found in the crotch of Bridgeman's underwear. DNA testing on that semen conclusively excluded Coleman, Fulton, Taylor, and Bridgeman's then-boyfriend as sources of the semen.

71. The DNA profile obtained from the semen on her underwear did, however, match to a serial rapist with almost scientific certainty. That rapist has been connected to at least three other rapes.

72. Analysts also recovered male DNA from underneath the victim's fingernails. Testing on that DNA revealed that although Coleman, Fulton, Taylor, and Bridgeman's boyfriend could not have left that DNA under the victim's fingernails, the same serial rapist could not be excluded from being the source of that DNA.

73. In addition, semen found on Bridgeman's sweatshirt similarly excluded Coleman, Fulton, Taylor, and the victim's boyfriend from being the donor of the semen, but did not exclude the serial rapist.

#### **Defendants' Pattern and Practice of Coercing False Confessions In Order to Secure Wrongful Convictions**

74. The Defendants' misconduct in this case was not an isolated occurrence. To the contrary, they were the result of the City of Chicago's policies and practices of pursuing

wrongful convictions through reliance on coerced statements and profoundly flawed investigations.

75. The Defendant Officers' coercion of false statements from Coleman and Fulton was undertaken pursuant to, and proximately caused by, a policy and practice on the part of the Department.

76. These Defendants' methods went far beyond acceptable police interrogation techniques.

77. The wrongful convictions of innocent persons involving coerced and false statements include numerous cases in which Department detectives used the very same tactics that the Defendants employed against Coleman and Fulton. These tactics include: (a) physical abuse; (b) psychological intimidation and manipulation; (c) fabrication of confessions; (d) false promises of leniency in exchange for "cooperation" in the form of a statement; and (e) use of other unlawful tactics to secure the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of persons without regard to their actual guilt.

78. For example, Defendant Foley, the lead detective on Mr. Coleman's case, and the detective who obtained Coleman's and Fulton's false confessions, has since been revealed as the detective who obtained a false "confession" from Harold Richardson in the now-notorious "Englewood Four" case. In that case, all four convicted men were exonerated when DNA from a serial rapist murderer was discovered at the crime scene; that same DNA excluded all four defendants. Mr. Richardson was later awarded a Certificate of Innocence despite the confession obtained by Defendant Foley.

79. In that same case, Defendants Foley and Boudreau coerced a false confession from one of Richardson's co-defendants, Terrill Swift. The City of Chicago recently paid over

\$31 million to settle claims that Defendants Foley and Boudreau coerced false confessions from the Englewood Four.

80. After the Englewood Four were exonerated, the FBI discovered an insider's account of how those false confessions were obtained. Former Assistant State's Attorney Terrence Johnson revealed that detectives, including Defendants Foley and Boudreau, told the Englewood Four they could go home if they cooperated by confessing to the crime and implicating others. They were told "witnesses go home." Johnson further reported that the detectives created a "cheat sheet" to help them keep their stories straight when testifying at the subsequent motions to dismiss brought by the Englewood Four.

81. The Detectives were successful. The motions to suppress were denied and the Englewood Four were convicted despite, just as here, no forensic evidence inculpating them. But for advanced DNA testing, the four would have remained incarcerated like Mr. Coleman.

82. Likewise, Defendant Boudreau is one of the notorious homicide detectives, who, under former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge, had a lengthy history of physically and psychologically coercing suspects to "confess" to serious violent crimes, including murder.

83. In total, Defendant Boudreau managed to obtain murder confessions from more than a dozen people in which the charges were either dropped or the defendant was acquitted notwithstanding the "confessions."

84. In an examination of thousands of murder cases in Cook County from 1991 through 2000, the Chicago Tribune found that Defendant Boudreau and many of his colleagues had been involved in a wide range of cases that ultimately collapsed even though they had obtained confessions.

85. As the Chicago Tribune observed, “Boudreau stands out not only for the number of his cases that have fallen apart, but for the reasons. In those cases, Boudreau has been accused by defendants of punching, slapping or kicking them; interrogating a juvenile without a youth officer present; and of taking advantage of mentally retarded suspects and others with low IQs.”

*See* “Veteran Detective’s Murder Cases Unravel,” *Chicago Tribune*, December 17, 2001, available at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/chi-011217confession-story.html> (last visited on January 26, 2018).

86. For a two-year period in the early 1990s, Defendants Boudreau and his partners helped “solve” at least five murders with “confessions” that ended with acquittals. All of these suspects alleged that Defendant Boudreau and/or Defendant Halloran mistreated them to obtain false confessions.

87. Some other examples of abuses by Defendant Officers include the following, all of which are corroborated by sworn testimony:

- a. In November 1992, Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, and O’Brien jointly induced Harold Hill, Dan Young, and Peter Williams to provide interlocking confessions to raping and killing a woman. Notably, records revealed that despite confessing to murder, Williams was actually incarcerated at the time of the crime. Because of his demonstrated innocence, Williams was never charged. Hill and Young, however, were convicted although their confessions implicated Williams, who was undeniably innocent. Again, later DNA evidence exonerated Hill and Young, leading to their release from prison.
- b. Likewise, Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, and O’Brien featured prominently in the case against Tyrone Hood and Wayne Washington, coercing a false

“confession” from Washington. Both Hood and Washington later had their murder convictions overturned.

- c. Derrick Flewellen signed a confession coerced by Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, and O’Brien after being interrogated for more than 36 hours, during which time he was slapped, kicked, punched, and slammed into the wall by Boudreau and other detectives before succumbing to their coercion. After spending almost five years in prison, Flewellen was acquitted of the two murders when DNA tests proved the crime was committed by someone else.
- d. Defendant Boudreau and a partner obtained a murder confession from Alfonzia Neal, testifying that Neal waived his rights and signed a statement handwritten by a prosecutor. Experts established that Neal had an IQ in the 40s, well below the dividing line for mental retardation, and that he was incapable of intelligently waiving his Miranda rights. Neal was acquitted notwithstanding his signed confession.
- e. In December 1993, Defendants Boudreau, Carroll, O’Brien, and Graf “solved” two separate murders with confessions from two intellectually impaired juveniles, Fred Ewing and Darnell Stokes, classmates in special-education courses. One expert concluded that Ewing “was unable to comprehend the substance of the confession which he allegedly made.” Absent any other evidence connecting them to the crime, both were acquitted despite the confessions obtained by those Defendants.
- f. In 1998, Defendant Boudreau helped get a murder confession from a 13-year-old boy with a verbal IQ of 59. The judge later ruled that the boy did not have the

mental capacity to waive his rights and threw out the confession. Prosecutors then dropped the charges.

- g. After police officer Michael Ceriale was shot to death in 1998, Defendant Boudreau and other detectives arrested Jonathan Tolliver at 4:00 a.m. and interrogated him for a 24-hour period, resulting in allegedly incriminating (unwritten and unsigned) statements. Tolliver was never advised of his rights, no Miranda waiver was created, and his requests to speak with a lawyer and/or his mother were refused. Boudreau claimed that the protections for minors were not utilized because Tolliver, who was 16 years old, had lied about his age, falsely claiming to have been eighteen. After two trials, Tolliver was convicted of Ceriale's murder.
- h. In connection with the Ceriale murder, Defendant Boudreau, among others, coerced statements from other witnesses to incriminate Tolliver. The means of coercion included an intentional withholding of insulin from one diabetic witness for more than 24 hours. When these witnesses later refused to testify at trial consistent with the false statements coerced by Boudreau, the State charged five of them with perjury, and at least one of them went to jail for it.
- i. Marcus Wiggins brought a lawsuit against Defendant Boudreau alleging that he was handcuffed to a wall and beaten in an interrogation room while being questioned with a group of youngsters in a 1991 murder case. Wiggins's mother had been denied access to her son, who was a 13-year old 8th grader at the time of the coerced confession. Six young suspects gave confessions. Two of these confessions were later thrown out on the basis of the "periodic screaming [at the

police station] throughout the night,” screaming that Boudreau testified he did not hear. The remaining four were acquitted, including two who had been interrogated by Boudreau.

- j. Antoine Ward was placed in an interrogation room by Defendant Boudreau, where he was cuffed to a bench for prolonged periods, unable to use the bathroom (he urinated on the floor), and beaten. Boudreau told Ward that other witnesses had placed him at the scene of a murder, but that he would let him go home and help him if he signed a statement saying that he gave another man a gun. After almost 48 hours in the room, Ward signed the statement written out by Boudreau, and was convicted of murder.
- k. Fabian Pico was 16 years old when he gave a self-incriminating statement to Defendants Boudreau and Halloran which was then used to convict him of murder. When Pico moved to suppress the statement on the grounds that the police did not allow him access to his mother, Boudreau claimed that he had tried unsuccessfully to reach Pico’s mother by phone before Pico confessed, but this supposed attempted contact is not referenced anywhere in his written reports.
  1. After being beaten by Defendants Boudreau and O’Brien, Jesse Clemon signed a written statement with his left hand (because his right hand had been injured). Witnesses in the station heard hollering and protests of “I didn’t do it.” Boudreau testified that the statement was not coerced, but the judge suppressed it anyway due to the “horrendously oppressive” atmosphere at the station. During their investigation, Defendants Boudreau and O’Brien also threatened, beat, and

electrochocked Jesse's brother, Demoni, and beat his other brother, Iamari, with a flashlight.

- m. Kilroy Watkins was arrested and handcuffed to a metal ring in an interrogation room by Defendants Boudreau and Halloran, who then choked and punched him in order to get him to confess to a six-month old shooting. After more than 30 hours in this room with minimal sleep and food, Watkins signed a false incriminating statement.
- n. In 1992, Clayborn Smith was interrogated for 37 hours about a murder he knew nothing about. When Mr. Smith professed his innocence, another detective kicked and punched his head and body, and Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, and O'Brien threatened to charge Mr. Smith's pregnant girlfriend if he did not confess. At one point, the detectives believed that they had successfully coerced Mr. Smith to confess, but when the Assistant State's Attorney ("ASA") entered the room, Mr. Smith continued to assert his innocence, whereupon the ASA left and the beating resumed. The same thing happened a second time, this time with another ASA, but again Mr. Smith refused to confess. When that ASA left the room, Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, and O'Brien resumed the beating, whereupon Mr. Smith, deprived of both counsel and sleep for an inordinate time, finally signed a false confession.
- o. Christopher Holly filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against Defendant Boudreau and other detectives alleging that he was framed for a murder in 1998.
- p. Richard Malek alleges that Defendant Boudreau and other detectives kept him in an interrogation room for four days, depriving him of sleep, food, and access to

lawyers, as well as using violence (they knocked out his tooth) and threats to shoot him (Russian Roulette) in an attempt to coerce his confession. Boudreau participated in this coercion, but played the “good cop,” uncuffing Mr. Malek and providing him with a McDonalds hamburger after he had been starved for an extended period. When they falsely claimed to have obtained an “oral” confession, Mr. Malek filed a federal lawsuit against Defendant Boudreau and others.

- q. In 1995, Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, and O’Brien interrogated and coerced confessions from Oscar Gomez, Eric Gomez, and Abel Quinones. Their tactics included holding all three men for 30 hours, beating them while they were shackled to the wall, and preventing them from communicating with an attorney or their families, all in a successful attempt to coerce false confessions. All three defendants were found not guilty, based largely on the conclusion that the detectives physically coerced their confessions.
- r. In 1993, the day after Tyrone Reyna’s sixteenth birthday, he was beaten during an interrogation by Defendants Boudreau and Halloran, who refused to let him contact his family and beat him into confessing to a murder he did not commit. Tyrone Reyna’s codefendants, Nicholas Escamilla and Miguel Morales, were arrested by Defendant Boudreau for murder despite the lack of any physical evidence or eye witnesses linking Escamilla to the crime. Boudreau tortured Escamilla by beating him and threatening to send his pregnant wife to jail if he did not confess. After many hours of abuse, Escamilla eventually falsely confessed as well. Miguel Morales was also beaten during his interrogation.

However, unlike Escamilla, Morales refused to confess. Boudreau then coerced a friend of Morales into stating that Morales had confessed to the murder over the phone. The witness recanted his statement at trial, and testified that he only gave the statement after he had been beaten for over twenty hours and threatened with prosecution until he falsely implicated Morales.

- s. In 1998, Defendants Boudreau and Halloran held Joseph Jackson in an interrogation room in connection with a murder. When Jackson refused to confess, Defendants Boudreau and Halloran placed a book on his chest and stomach and hit the book with a black jack, so as not to leave visible marks on Jackson's body. Meanwhile, Defendants Boudreau and Halloran, using a torture technique referred to in the Department as "bagging," placed a typewriter cover over Jackson's head and cut off his air supply. As a result of this coercion, Jackson eventually confessed to a murder he did not commit.
- t. In 1991, fifteen year-old John Plummer was interrogated for 36 hours by Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, Foley, and Clancy. After being physically beaten, he falsely confessed to a murder.
- u. In 1992, Arnold Day was interrogated in connection with a murder investigation. Mr. Day was isolated in an interrogation room for many hours while Defendants Boudreau and Foley psychologically and physically tortured him until he finally confessed.
- v. In 1993, Richard Anthony was forced to confess to murder by Defendant Boudreau's partner, who beat Anthony and denied him food, sleep, and use of the restroom in order to coerce Anthony into giving a false statement. Richard

Anthony's co-defendant, Jerry Gillespie, was also beaten by Defendant Boudreau and his partner during his 30 hour interrogation, which included preventing him from contacting an attorney or his family and refusing to allow him to use the bathroom. As a result of the abuse, coercion and intimidation, Gillespie eventually gave a false confession.

- w. In 1995, Defendants Boudreau and Halloran were part of a team of detectives who physically abused John Wright until he agreed to implicate Malik Taylor and Michael Taylor in connection with a murder.
- x. In 1993, Emmett White was arrested by Defendants Boudreau, O'Brien, and Clancy, who hit him in the face, punched him in the body, threw him to the ground and stepped on his face, dragging his head across the floor of the interrogation room, all in an attempt to get him to falsely confess. Photographs of Mr. White corroborated his testimony of his abuse.
- y. In 1988, Defendant Halloran and a partner struck Mickey Grayer in the stomach and groin with a flashlight, and punched and choked him.
- z. Defendants Foley and O'Brien coerced a signed false confession out of Javan Deloney in 1991. To extract the false confession from him, they woke him from his sleep, handcuffed him, and took him to the station. They denied his multiple requests for an attorney, and began yelling at and threatening him. They then turned to physical violence, hitting him in the chest and slapping him in the face, and forcing him to watch them beat his cousin, all despite his insistence that he was not involved in the murder.

- aa. Defendant O'Brien threatened Cortez Brown with the death penalty, beat him with a flashlight, deprived him of food, and denied him access to an attorney.
- bb. Defendant O'Brien also slapped Curtis Mislap in the face, kicked him in the testicles while he was handcuffed, and threatened him. Milsap falsely confessed and was later acquitted.
- cc. Taking a page from John Burge, in 1991 Defendants O'Brien and Boudreau electroshocked Damari Clemon. They beat him and threatened him with a pistol.
- dd. In 1994, Defendants Boudreau, Halloran, Moser, and Graf beat Anthony Williams into falsely confessing to murder and armed robbery.
- ee. In 1993, Defendants Boudreau, O'Brien, and Halloran arrested Nicholas Escamila in his home without a warrant. They handcuffed him to a wall for 15 hours and kept him from eating, sleeping, using the bathroom, and making a phone call. They ridiculed him, screamed him, threatened him and his wife, child, and unborn baby, and punched him in the head, chest, stomach, and back. The Defendants coached Escamila into a false confession, which he signed because he wanted the abuse to end.
- ff. Similarly, in 1987, Defendant Foley worked with other Chicago detectives to obtain a false confession from Frank Bounds for a murder. The detectives hit Bounds on the head and threatened to implicate Bounds's girlfriend in the murder if he did not confess.

88. There are many other examples of similar misconduct by the other Defendant Officers.

89. It just so happens that these are the same Detectives who obtained the confessions from Coleman and Fulton. Mr. Coleman made an immediate outcry to Attorney Juliette Ferguson on the day of his interrogation. He made that outcry not knowing that the Defendants who obtained his false confession had been accused of the exact same abusive behavior by scores of other men.

90. Consistent with the municipal policy and practice described in the preceding paragraph, members of the Department, including but not limited to the Defendant Officers, systematically suppressed evidence pertaining to these fabricated and coerced statements, both from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and from criminal defendants.

91. As a matter of both policy and practice, municipal policymakers and Department supervisors condoned and facilitated a code of silence within the Chicago Police Department. In accordance with this code, Department detectives refused to report and otherwise lied about misconduct committed by their colleagues, including the misconduct at issue in this case.

92. As a result of the City of Chicago's established practice of not tracking and identifying police officers who are repeatedly accused of the same kinds of serious misconduct; failing to investigate cases in which the police are implicated in obtaining coerced and false statements, as well as wrongful charges and convictions; failing to discipline officers accused of this unlawful conduct; and facilitating a code of silence within the Department, Chicago police officers (including the Defendant Officers here) have come to believe that they may violate the civil rights of members of the public and cause innocent persons to be charged with serious crimes without fear of adverse consequences.

93. The City's failure to train, supervise, and discipline its officers effectively condones, ratifies, and sanctions the kind of misconduct that the Defendant Officers committed

against Plaintiff in this case. Constitutional violations such as those that occurred in this case are encouraged and facilitated as a result of the City's practices and *de facto* policies, as alleged above.

94. The City of Chicago and officials within the Department failed to act to remedy the abuses described in the preceding paragraphs, despite actual knowledge of the pattern of misconduct. They thereby perpetuated the unlawful practices and ensured that no action would be taken (independent of the judicial process) to remedy Mr. Coleman's ongoing injuries.

95. The policies and practices described in the foregoing paragraphs were consciously approved by City of Chicago policymakers who were deliberately indifferent to the violations of constitutional rights described herein.

#### **Mr. Coleman's Exoneration**

96. On August 7, 2017, based on the newly discovered forensic evidence and revelations about Defendant Officers' long histories of misconduct, Mr. Coleman filed a motion under 735 ILCS 5/2-1401 to vacate his conviction and sentence. He raised claims of newly discovered DNA evidence and pointed to numerous instances of other false confessions coerced by the same detectives that coerced Mr. Coleman's false confession.

97. On November 17, 2017, on the State's motion, Judge Porter vacated Mr. Coleman's convictions and life sentence, and Mr. Coleman was released from prison on an I-Bond a few days later.

98. On December 1, 2017, the State dismissed all charges against Mr. Coleman.

### **Mr. Coleman's Damages**

99. Mr. Coleman spent over 23 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. He must now attempt to make a life for himself outside prison without the benefit of two decades of life experiences which normally equip adults for that task.

100. Additionally, the emotional pain and suffering caused by losing more than two decades in the prime of his life—from ages 25 through 48—has been substantial. During his wrongful incarceration, Mr. Coleman was stripped of the various pleasures of basic human experience, which all free people enjoy as a matter of right. He missed out on the ability to raise his two children, and share holidays, birthday, funerals, and other life events with his large, tight-knit family and many friends, and on the fundamental freedom to live one's life as an autonomous human being.

101. Mr. Coleman's 23 years of wrongful incarceration forced him into a world of isolation in which he lost all contact with his friends and family in the outside world.

102. Mr. Coleman has suffered tremendously because of the Defendants' misconduct.

### **COUNT I – 42 U.S.C. § 1983 Fifth Amendment**

103. Plaintiff incorporates each paragraph of this Complaint as if fully restated here.

104. In the manner described more fully above, the Defendant Officers and Defendant Garfinkel, individually, jointly, and in conspiracy with one another, as well as under color of law and within the scope of their employment, forced Plaintiff to incriminate himself falsely and against his will, in violation of his rights secured by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

105. As described more fully above, the Defendant Officers and Defendant Garfinkel participated in, encouraged, advised, and ordered an unconstitutional interrogation of Plaintiff,

which caused Plaintiff to make involuntary statements implicating himself in the rape and murder of Antwinica Bridgeman.

106. The false statements coerced by Defendant Officers and Defendant Garfinkel, and attributed to Plaintiff, were used against Plaintiff to his detriment in a criminal case. These statements were the only reason that Plaintiff was prosecuted and convicted of Ms. Bridgeman's rape and murder.

107. The misconduct described in this count was objectively unreasonable and was undertaken intentionally, with malice, with reckless indifference to the rights of others, and in total disregard of the truth and Plaintiff's clear innocence.

108. As a result of Defendants' misconduct described in this Count, Plaintiff suffered injuries, including but not limited to loss of liberty, physical harm, and emotional distress.

**COUNT II – 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
Violation of Due Process**

109. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated as if fully restated herein.

110. As described more fully above, all of the Defendants, while acting individually, jointly, and/or in conspiracy, as well as under color of law and within the scope of their employment, deprived Plaintiff of his constitutional right to a fair trial.

111. In the manner described more fully above, the Defendants individually, jointly, and/or in concert and in conspiracy, fabricated false reports and other evidence which caused the conviction of Plaintiff. This misconduct includes: fabricating that the nonpublic information about the crime had originated with Plaintiff and his codefendant, when it actually had been fed to them by the Defendants and fabricating reports purporting to memorialize Plaintiff's statements.

112. Absent Defendants' misconduct, the prosecution of Plaintiff could not and would not have been pursued, and Plaintiff would not have been convicted.

113. The Defendants' misconduct directly and proximately resulted in the unjust and wrongful criminal conviction of Plaintiff and his wrongful imprisonment, thereby denying him his constitutional right to a fair trial, in violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

114. As a direct and proximate result of this violation of his constitutional right to a fair trial, Plaintiff suffered injuries, including but not limited to loss of liberty, physical harm, and emotional distress.

115. The misconduct described in this Count was objectively unreasonable and was undertaken intentionally, with malice and willful indifference to Plaintiff's clearly established constitutional rights.

**COUNT III – 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
Post-Charging Deprivation of Liberty**

116. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated as if fully restated herein.

117. Defendant Officers caused Plaintiff to be unreasonably seized, detained, imprisoned, and deprived of liberty, and further caused Plaintiff to be improperly subjected to judicial proceedings for which there was no legitimate probable cause.

118. The Defendant Officers accused Plaintiff of criminal activity knowing those accusations to be without genuine probable cause, and they made statements to prosecutors with the intent of exerting influence to institute and continue the judicial proceedings.

119. The misconduct in this Count violated Plaintiff's rights under the Fourth Amendment and the procedural and substantive due process components of the Fourteenth Amendment.

120. The misconduct described in this Count was undertaken by the Defendant Officers under color of law and within the scope of their employment.

121. The misconduct described in this Court was undertaken with malice, willfulness, and reckless indifference.

122. The misconduct described in this Count was undertaken pursuant to the City's policy and practice in the manner more fully described above.

123. As a result of this misconduct, Plaintiff sustained, and continues to sustain, injuries including physical injury and sickness, and emotional pain and suffering.

**COUNT IV – 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
Failure to Intervene**

124. Plaintiff incorporates each paragraph of this Complaint as if fully restated here.

125. In the manner described more fully above, by their conduct and under color of law, during the constitution violations described herein, one or more of the Defendants stood by without intervening to prevent the violation of Plaintiff's constitutional rights, even though they had the opportunity to do so.

126. As a direct and proximate result of this violation of his constitutional right to a fair trial, Plaintiff suffered injuries, including but not limited to loss of liberty, physical harm, and emotional distress.

127. The misconduct described in this Count was objectively unreasonable and was undertaken intentionally, with malice and willful indifference to Plaintiff's clearly established constitutional rights.

**COUNT V – 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
Conspiracy to Deprive Constitutional Rights**

128. Plaintiff incorporates each paragraph of this Complaint as if fully restated here.

129. After Ms. Bridgeman's murder, the Defendants, acting within the scope of their employment and under color of law, agreed among themselves and with other individuals to act in concert in order to deprive Plaintiff of his constitutional rights, including his rights to due process and a fair trial, all as described in the various paragraphs of this Complaint.

130. In this manner, Defendants, acting in concert with other unknown coconspirators, conspired by concerted action to accomplish an unlawful purpose by unlawful means.

131. In furtherance of the conspiracy, each of the coconspirators engaged in and facilitated numerous overt acts, including but not limited to those set forth above—such as fabricating evidence, coercing false confessions, committing perjury during hearings and trials—and was an otherwise willful participant in joint activity.

132. As a direct and proximate result of the illicit prior agreement and actions in furtherance of the conspiracy referenced above, Plaintiff's rights were violated, and he suffered injuries, including but not limited to loss of liberty, physical harm, and emotional distress.

133. The misconduct described in this Count was objectively unreasonable and was undertaken intentionally, with malice and willful indifference to Plaintiff's clearly established constitutional rights.

**COUNT VI – 42 U.S.C. § 1983  
Supervisory Liability**

134. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated as if fully restated fully herein.

135. The unfair trial, wrongful conviction, and continued wrongful detention of Plaintiff were caused by the deliberate indifference and recklessness of Defendant Benoit and other Unknown Supervisory Defendants (collectively, "Supervisory Defendants"), when they failed to adequately train and supervise the individual Defendant Officers.

136. Specifically these Supervisory Defendants were personally involved in the case against Plaintiff and knew, or, in the absence of their deliberate indifference and recklessness, should have known of their subordinates' unconstitutional actions and related misconduct in the case.

137. Furthermore, these Supervisory Defendants failed to supervise the individual defendants in constitutionally adequate law enforcement practices, particularly those which concerned interviews of suspects, thereby encouraging and/or permitting these defendants and other employees to coerce and fabricate false inculpatory evidence, which cause the constitutional deprivations suffered by Plaintiff.

138. These interview techniques, fabrications, and other investigative procedures were contrary to accepted methods used by law enforcement agencies. The fact that the Supervisory Defendants failed to train and supervise their subordinates to ensure that they employed proper investigation procedures demonstrates deliberate indifference and reckless disregard for Plaintiff's constitutional rights.

139. The personal involvement of the Supervisory Defendants, through their actions and omissions, proximately and directly caused the constitutional deprivations and grievous personal injuries suffered by Plaintiff, including the above-mentioned injuries and damages.

140. The misconduct described in this Count was objectively unreasonable and was undertaken intentionally, with malice and willful indifference to Plaintiff's clearly established constitutional rights.

**COUNT VII – 42 U.S.C. § 1983**  
***Monell Claim***

141. Each paragraph in this Complaint is incorporated as if restated fully herein.

142. The actions of all the individual Defendant Officers were undertaken pursuant to policies and practices of the Chicago Police Department, described above, which were ratified by policymakers for the City of Chicago with final policymaking authority. These policies and practices included the failure to adequately train, supervise, and discipline officers who engaged in the alleged constitutional violations, set forth in greater detail above.

143. The policies and practices described in this Count were maintained and implemented by the City of Chicago with deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's constitutional rights.

144. As a direct and proximate result of the City's actions, Plaintiff's constitutional rights were violated and he suffered injuries and damages, as set forth in this Compliant.

145. The City of Chicago is therefore liable for the misconduct committed by the Defendant officers.

**COUNT VIII – State Law Claim  
Malicious Prosecution**

146. Plaintiff incorporates each paragraph of this Complaint as if fully restated here.

147. The Defendant Officers accused Plaintiff of criminal activity knowing those accusations to be without genuine probable cause, and they made statements to prosecutors with the intent of exerting influence and to institute and continue the judicial proceedings.

148. The Defendant Officers and caused Plaintiff to be improperly subjected to judicial proceedings for which there was no probable cause. These judicial proceedings were instituted and continued maliciously, resulting in injury.

149. Statements of the Defendants regarding Plaintiff's alleged culpability were made with knowledge that those statements were false and perjured. The Defendants also fabricated evidence by coercing false inculpatory testimony from Plaintiff and his codefendant. The

Defendants were aware that, as described more fully above, no true or reliable evidence implicated Plaintiff in the Bridgeman rape and murder, and all inculpatory evidence was coerced or fabricated. Furthermore, the Defendants intentionally withheld from and misrepresented to prosecutors facts that further vitiated probable cause against Plaintiff, as set forth above, and failed to investigate evidence that would have led to the actual perpetrator. The Defendant Officers withheld the facts of their manipulation and the resulting fabrications from Plaintiff.

150. The misconduct described in this Count was undertaken intentionally, with malice, willfulness, and reckless indifference to the rights of others.

151. The charges against Plaintiff were terminated in Plaintiff's favor.

152. As a direct and proximate result of this misconduct, Plaintiff sustained, and continues to sustain, injuries as set forth above, including pain and suffering.

**COUNT IX – State Law Claim  
Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress**

153. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated as if restated fully herein.

154. The acts and conduct of the Defendants as set forth above were extreme and outrageous. The Defendants' actions were rooted in an abuse of power or authority, and they were undertaken with an intent to cause, or were in reckless disregard of the probability that their conduct would cause, severe emotional distress to Plaintiff, as alleged more fully above.

155. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' actions, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer severe emotional distress.

**COUNT X – State Law Claim  
Civil Conspiracy**

156. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated as if restated fully herein.

157. As described more fully in the preceding paragraphs, the Defendants, acting in concert with other known and unknown coconspirators, conspired by concerted action to accomplish an unlawful purpose by unlawful means.

158. In furtherance of the conspiracy, the Defendants committed overt acts and were otherwise willful participants in joint activity including but not limited to the malicious prosecution of Plaintiff and intentional infliction of emotional distress upon him.

159. The misconduct described in this Count was undertaken intentionally, with malice, willfulness, and reckless indifference to the rights of others.

160. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conspiracy, Plaintiff suffered damages, including severe emotional distress and anguish, as is alleged more fully above.

**COUNT XI – State Law Claim  
Respondeat Superior**

161. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated as if restated fully herein.

162. In committing the acts alleged in the preceding paragraphs, each of the Defendant Officers were members of, and agents of, the Chicago Police Department, acting at all relevant times within the scope of their employment and under color of law.

163. Defendant City of Chicago is liable as principal for all torts committed by its agents.

164. In committing the acts alleged in the preceding paragraphs, Defendant Garfinkel was a member of, and agent of, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, acting at all relevant times within the scope of his employment and under color of law.

165. Defendant Cook County is liable as principal for all torts committed by its agents.

**COUNT XII – State Law Claim  
Indemnification**

166. Each paragraph of this Complaint is incorporated as if restated fully herein.
167. Illinois law provides that public entities are directed to pay any tort judgment for compensatory damages for which employees are liable within the scope of their employment activities.
168. The Defendant Officers are or were employees of the Chicago Police Department, who acted within the scope of their employment in committing the misconduct described herein.
169. Defendant Cook County was at all times material to this complaint responsible to indemnify Defendant Garfinkel for acts taken within the scope of his employment, and is therefore responsible for any judgment entered against Defendant Garfinkel and for any judgment entered against him, making the County a necessary party to this complaint.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff NEVEST COLEMAN, respectfully requests that this Court enter a judgment in his favor and against Defendants the CITY OF CHICAGO, KENNETH BOUDREAU, JOHN HALLORAN, MICHAEL CLANCY, JAMES O'BRIEN, WILLIAM FOLEY, ALBERT GRAF, WILLIAM MOSER, STANLEY TURNER, GERALD CARROLL, THOMAS KELLY, as-yet UNKNOWN OFFICERS OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT, SERGEANT THOMAS BENOIT, as-yet UNKNOWN SUPERVISORS OF THE CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT, ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY HAROLD GARFINKEL, and COOK COUNTY, awarding compensatory damages, attorneys' fees and costs against each Defendant, and, because they acted willfully, wantonly, and/or maliciously, punitive damages against each of the individual Defendants, and any other relief this Court deems just and appropriate.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff, NEVEST COLEMAN, hereby demands a trial by jury pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b) on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

**NEVEST COLEMAN**

BY: /s/ Russell Ainsworth  
*One of Plaintiff's Attorneys*

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